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## Summary

## of

## The National Paper of Iraq

78-2120

Iraq is one of the few developing countries that adopted the path of economic programming and direct state planning in the orientation of the country's socio-economic activity. Iraqi society has passed through three distinct stages. The first stage began in the early fifties and lasted until 14 July 1958. During this stage the Reconstruction Council was founded. This Council was charged with the task of formulating a variety of economic programmes for spending the Iraqi Government's share of the country's oil revenue on socio-economic development projects. The second stage began with the Revolution of 14 July 1958 which overthrew the royal regime and all that it represented. It also abolished the Reconstruction Council, established in its place the Ministry of Planning and legislated the adoption of the first economic plan. This plan involved a number of limited allocations made in the light of a collection of general socio-economic objectives and indicators. The most important event of this stage was the adoption of a national philosophy of industrialization, development and educational expan The third stage began with the Revolution of 17-30 July 1968 which introduc a number of fundamental changes of significance to socio-economic developme It witnessed the implementation of the first closely designed and integrated economic plan which had concrete, inter-related socio-economic objectives, the Plan of 1970-1974. At present, the Plan of 1976-1980 is in the proces of implementation. This Plan is characterized by its comprehensive and binding nature, by the width of its popular base and the ambitiousness of its objectives. Its aim is to achieve a GNP growth rate of 16.8%, a per capita rate of 13.2%, 32.9% in the manufacturing sector, 7.1% in agriculture and a 16.9% growth rate in the distribution sector.

The direct involvement of the State in every economic activity was expanded to the point where the public sector of the economy came to achi complete dominance of the fields of transport (all the different means th king, insurance, energy, vocational and higher education, scient diverse industries and external trade.

The Iraqi economy is dependent upon the primary sector (natural ... in general and the mining sector in particular. In 1976 this sector ... for around 54% of GNP; manufacturing accounted for 7% and agriculture ... Accordingly, the aim of the national development plan is to remove ... dependence on the primary sector and to create a diversified and int... economy. The lion's share of investment, therefore, is directed to ... development of manufacturing industries, especially those that rely ... raw materials. Investment is also being oriented towards the develop... ...ural resources so as to promote the achievement of food secur...

External trade plays its role in the Iraqi economy. Capital goods, include primary and intermediate materials, constituted 64.3% of all imp... for 1974 and crude oil made up about 99% of all exports in the same year.

A variety of traditional and modern technologies exist side by side ...raq. Because of the tremendous expansion in economic development activ... and the enormous size of current investments, the general policy of the Government has been to resort to the most advanced technologies available. Unlike many developing countries, Iraq suffers from a relative shortage ... manpower and a relative abundance of capital. The preference, therefore, for capital-intensive technology. The productive industries - which form the basis of technological creativity - are still weak in Iraq; so, the country ... to rely totally on the external world for procuring machinery, equipment, technical methods and expertise.

Since the achievement of the objective for which technology is imported ... place on competitive basis, the Iraqi side is active in assisting ... ...tative organizations or foreign consultant firms by preparing and publi... ... general conditions and specifications of each project and by requiring ... ...plier-contractor to submit his offer in detail. In this instance, ... ...nts the first formula for the transfer of technology, the ... remains responsible for supervising the project's implementa...

The second approach to the transfer of technology is that of the "turnkey" project. While this approach has not been utilized in many projects, it is generally found in high capital-intensive projects. It involves no more than the communication of the general terms and principal requirements of the project to the Iraqi side, leaving the entire range of responsibility from blueprint to operation in the hands of the contractor in charge of its execution.

The third approach - the one preferred by the Government - is that in which projects are directly implemented by the Iraqi side, with the foreign side contributing only the equipment. This formula benefits from the Government's support and encouragement.

Along with water, land constitutes Iraq's principal natural resources. The area of agricultural land under cultivation is estimated at 24 million dunums, and the area of cultivable land constitutes another 24 million dunums. The strategic goal of the Government is the achievement of food security not only for Iraq, but for the regions of the Arab Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula as well.

Iraq's second basic resource is its manpower. In 1977 the Iraqi population reached 12.03 million people and Iraq today has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, estimated at 3.33%.

Iraq possesses mineral resources, the richest and most plentiful of which is its oil and natural gas wealth. Among its other mineral resources are natural sulfure and the sulfure that is associated with crude oil. Crude phosphates are also found in commercial quantities.

Of the Arab countries, Iraq today is considered to be a pioneer in long-term planning and it possesses an advanced central planning organization. The investments of the socialist sector represent the lion's share of national investment and technological investments represent, in turn, the greater part of this sector's investments. The need has arisen for an in-depth examination of the objectives and functions of the country's scientific and technological organizations so as to make them more receptive to and interactive with the requirements of comprehensive development and so as to integrate them into

a scientific research and technology plan that is itself an integral part of the country's national development plan.

The country's technological strategy can be summed up as follows:

- The construction of an autonomous base for the development of technology and the transformation of the relationship of technological dependency by bolstering and enhancing the nation's capacity for diagnozing the problems of the country, for proposing alternate solutions and for selecting what is appropriate and putting it into application.
- The development and improvement of technological patterns that respond to the national aspirations of the country, secure the essential living requirements of the people and fortify the process of socialist construction.
- Bolstering the country's negotiating power through the acquisition of the appropriate technology.
- Developing the country's capability for assimilating, adopting, domesticating and evolving technology.
- Strengthening Arab co-operation by establishing joint programmes and projects and by supporting and founding Arab centres and organizations in the field of science and technology.

The 1970-1974 Plan brought with it a change in the established pattern: New technical and vocational institutes proliferated as did the numbers of their graduates at the end of the Plan period. Scientific research spending increased to 0.3% of the national income in the last year of the Plan.

The 1976-1980 Plan proposed to increase the number of instructors in the field of scientific research from 2 instructors per 10,000 people to 9 instructors by the end of 1985; to raise the ratio of technicians employed in scientific research from 0.4 technicians per 10,000 people in 1975 to 9 technicians in 1985; and to raise the scientist/technician ratio from 2:1 at the beginning of the Plan to 1:2 in 1985.

For reasons common to all the developing countries as well as for practical reasons particular to itself, Iraq is subject to a running loss of its scientific and technical cadres through the brain drain towards the more

developed countries. This phenomenon invites the attention of the United Nations in the expectation that it can take effective measures to counteract it.

Administrative development in Iraq is subject to an Administrative Development Plan that runs parallel to the national development plan of the country of which it is a part. It has nine basic objectives including the evaluation of the administrative structure of the state in the light of the national development plan and the improvement of the level of its performance and competence through the following measures:

1. The transfer of advanced administrative technology from the developed countries and its modification and adaptation to local circumstances.

2. The consolidation of sound local and Arab administrative practices, and the attempt to generalize them.

3. Efforts to define the parameters of the Iraqi experience in administration through the employment of scientific tools in the process of development and change: training, administrative systems, replacement of disfunctional laws and regulations, replacement of the organizational structures of disfunctional administrative bodies and the creation of O & M units within the administrative bodies that are devoted to the implementation of the administrative development plan.

There are in Iraq a number of organizations that are devoted to the rask of industrial documentation and information in favour of production, service and educational institutions. There is, for example, a centre specialized in scientific documentation which publishes special bulletins of the data at its disp al and an institute that is devoted to the engineering industries which presently has the responsibility for industrial information.

The opportunities for external scientific and technical co-operation present themselves through a number of channels. The most important and the largest of these channels is that of free external trade, where different technologies are offered on the world market at the competitive prices established by their exporte

A second channel for transferring technology - one in which the Iraqi Government shows great interest - is that of bilateral technical, economic and cultural co-operation agreements and the agreements contracted with international and regional organizations for the implementation of specific programmes.